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REMARKS

Applicants have amended the specification to claim priority of International Application No. PCT/EP03/012635, filed November 12, 2003, which claims priority of I.T. Serial No. RM2002A000576 filed on November 15, 2002. Additionally, Applicants have amended the specification to include the abstract for the filing of this National Phase Entry Application.

Applicants have amended claim 12 to incorporate the subject matter of cancelled claim 13. Additionally, Applicants have amended claims 9 and 10 to eliminate the multiple dependency of the claims so as to reduce filing fees without prejudice to the Applicants' right to subsequently pursue the amended subject matter in the present or future application(s).

Accordingly, there is no issue of new matter, and Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Preliminary Amendment. Therefore, upon entry, claims 1-12 and 14-15 will be pending and under examination.

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If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any fee is required, authorization is given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1891.

Respectfully submitted,

albert warnie Cha

Albert Wai-Kit Chan
Registration No. 36,479
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Law Offices of
Albert Wai-Kit Chan, LLC
World Plaza, Suite 604
141-07 20th Avenue
Whitestone, NY 11357
Tel: (718) 357-8836

Tel: (718) 357-8836 Fax: (718) 357-8615

E-mail: kitchanlaw@aol.com